REMARKS

Claims 1, 6-8 and 11-13 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 7 and 12 have been amended.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1, 6-8 and 11-13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Ishizuka et al. reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,617,801) in view of the Tsuji reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,545,652). This rejection, insofar as it may pertain to the presently pending claims, is traversed for the following reasons.

The method of driving a display panel of claim 1 includes in combination among other features "variably controlling respective constant current values for driving the respective data lines, wherein said variably controlling the constant current values is implemented by individually comparing a reference voltage with a voltage of each of the respective data lines as driven by the constant current values, using respective comparators each having a first input connected to the reference voltage and a second input connected to different ones of the respective data lines". Applicant respectfully submits that the method of driving a display panel of claim 1 would not have been obvious in view of the prior art as relied upon by the Examiner for at least the following reasons.

The Examiner has interpreted data comparators 34 in Fig. 2 of the Tsuji reference as meeting the comparing of claim 1. However, as described beginning in

column 7, line 49 of the Tsuji reference, pixel data are clocked into, and stored in, respective memory circuits 32 responsive to a latch clock signal. The pixel level data is subsequently compared in data comparators 34 with the value output from counter 33. The output signal from data comparators 34 are input to constant current driver section 35, whereby the output signals from data comparators 34 control the flow of constant current output from constant current driver section 35 to each current line 6 for a driver pulse with interval corresponding to the pixel level data value.

Accordingly, comparators 34 in Fig. 2 of the Tsuji reference each have a first input connected to an output provided from counter 33, and a second input connected to a pixel level data output provided from a respective different one of memory circuits 32. Comparators 34 in Fig. 2 of the Tsuji reference do not each have "a first input connected to the reference voltage and a second input connected to different ones of the respective data lines", and thus do not individually compare a reference voltage with a voltage of each of the respective data lines as driven by constant current values, as would be necessary to meet the features of claim 1. The Tsuji reference as relied upon thus does not overcome the acknowledged deficiencies of the primarily relied upon Ishizuka et al. reference. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the method for driving a display panel of claim 1 would not have been obvious in view of the prior art as relied upon by the Examiner taken singularly or together, and that this rejection, insofar as it may pertain to claims 1 and 6, is improper for at least these reasons, in addition to the reasons as set forth in the Request for Reconsideration dated February

5, 2008.

The drive of a display panel of claim 7 includes in combination among other features comparison means "respectively provided for each of the data lines, said comparison means each having a first input coupled to different ones of the respective data lines and for outputting a control signal by comparing a reference voltage from a reference voltage generator with a potential of the respective data lines". Applicant respectfully submits that the prior art as relied upon by the Examiner does not make obvious these features.

Comparators 34 in Fig. 2 of the Tsuji reference cannot be interpreted as the comparison means of claim 7. As asserted previously, comparators 34 in Fig. 2 of the Tsuji reference each have a first input connected to a variable counter output provided by counter 33, and a second input coupled to pixel level data output from respective memory circuits 32. Comparators 34 in Fig. 2 of the Tsuji reference do not each have an input coupled to different ones of respective data lines, as would be necessary to meet the features of claim 7. Moreover, since constant current driver section 35 in Fig. 2 of the Tsuji reference provides outputs directly to current lines 6, constant current driver section 35 does not individually control respective current values flowing from variable current sources to respective data lines, as would be necessary to meet the further features of claim 7. In particular, current sources are not specifically identified in Fig. 2 of the Tsuji reference. The Tsuji reference as relied upon thus does not overcome the acknowledged deficiencies of the primarily relied upon Ishizuka et al.

reference. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that the drive of a display panel of claim 7 would not have been obvious in view of the prior art as relied upon by the Examiner taken singularly or together, and that this rejection, insofar as it may pertain to claims 7, 8 and 11, is improper for at least these reasons, in addition to the reasons as set forth in the Request for Reconsideration dated February 5, 2008.

The drive of a display panel of claim 12 includes in combination among other features comparators "respectively provided for each of the data lines, the comparators each having a first input coupled to different ones of the respective data lines, the comparators output control signals by comparing a reference voltage from a voltage generator with a potential of the respective data lines". Applicant respectfully submits that the drive of a display panel of claim 12 would not have been obvious in view of the prior art as relied upon by the Examiner taken singularly or together, and that this rejection, insofar as it may pertain to claims 12 and 13, is improper for at least somewhat similar reasons as set forth above with respect to claim 7, and in further view of the reasons as set forth in the Request for Reconsideration dated February 5, 2008.

Conclusion

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the corresponding rejections, and to pass the claims of the present application to issue, for at least the above reasons.

In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present

application, please contact Andrew J. Telesz, Jr. (Reg. No. 33,581) at (571) 283-0720 in the Washington, D.C. area, to discuss these matters.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment for any additional fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0238.

Respectfully submitted,

VOLENTINE & WHITT, P.L.L.C.

Andrew J. Telesz, Jr.
Registration No. 33,581

One Freedom Square
11951 Freedom Drive, Suite 1260
Reston, Virginia 20190
Telephone No.: (571) 283-0720
Facsimile No.: (571) 283-0740